

APPROVED FOR 24 MAY 2006

03500.111549

PATENT APPLICATION

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Junichiro TAKAHASHI et al. ) : Examiner: Unassigned  
Application No.: To be assigned ) : Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Entry into U.S. National )  
Stage Under 35 U.S.C. § 371: May 24, 2006 )  
For: METAL BELT, FIXING BELT AND HEAT ) : May 24, 2006  
FIXING DEVICE )

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the Japanese patent documents and the International Search Report are also enclosed.

Japanese patent document number 7-114276 is discussed on page 4 of the subject specification and generally corresponds to U.S. Patent Nos. 5,568,240 and 5,778,293.

Japanese patent document number 2001-6868 is discussed on pages 4 and 8 of the subject specification.

Japanese patent document numbers 7-13448 and 6-222695 are discussed on page 6 of the subject specification.

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Japanese patent document number 2001-225134 is discussed on page 8 of the subject specification and generally corresponds to U.S. Patent Nos. 6,561,001 and 6,898,397.

Japanese patent document number 2002-258648 generally corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,564,033.

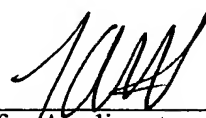
Japanese patent document number 9-44014 generally corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,078,780.

Applicants request that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2) is believed due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner may charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fee be due for filing this paper.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney for Applicants  
Lawrence A. Stahl  
Registration No. 30,110

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3800  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

AP2003030770 24 MAY 2006

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)  May 24, 2006				ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.111549		APPLICATION NO. Unassigned <b>20/200334</b>	
				APPLICANT Junichiro TAKAHASHI et al.			
				FILING DATE May 24, 2006		GROUP Unassigned	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		US-5,568,240	10/22/1996	Ohtsuka	355	285	
		US-5,778,293	07/07/1998	Ohtsuka	399	329	
		US-6,078,780	06/20/2000	Abe et al.	399	328	
		US-6,561,001 B2	05/13/2003	Sakuma et al.	72	85	
		US-6,564,033 B2	05/13/2003	Zhou et al.	399	329	
		US-6,898,397 B2	05/24/2005	Sakuma et al.	399	159	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
					CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		7-48691	02/21/1995	Japan			Yes
		7-263614	10/13/1995	Japan			Yes
		10-48976	02/20/1998	Japan			Yes
		9-44014	02/14/1997	Japan			Abstract
		2002-258648	09/11/2002	Japan			Abstract
		6-75489	03/18/1994	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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